



---

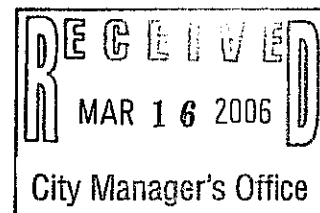
**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

---

Office of Chief Information Officer

March 16, 2006

Ms. Amy Chan  
City Manager  
City of Sunnyvale  
456 West Olive Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707



Dear Ms. Chan:

It was a pleasure to meet with you, Mayor Swegles and Vice Mayor Lee on Monday, March 13, 2006. Our dialogue was constructive and informative, and we thank you very much for your time.

As discussed, circumstances have changed significantly since the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) introduced the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Partnership program in 1994. Twelve years ago, the Internet was not a common-place business tool as it is today, the USPTO did not offer products, services, databases, and search capability on-line, and most Americans relied heavily on knowledgeable individuals for information about the patent and trademark application process. The in-person expertise coupled with specialized services made a Partnership Library indispensable to dissemination of training programs and materials and insight about the patent and trademark process.

Fortunately for the American public, we have made significant progress over the past twelve years. The USPTO now offers both patent and trademark electronic filing via the Internet, the ability to search for patents and trademarks on-line, the possibility of communicating with the Office via e-mail and the Internet, and all of our search and research tools and information on our website at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

We were impressed with Mayor Swegles and Vice Mayor Lee's expressed commitment to ensuring that the citizens of Sunnyvale receive value for their tax dollars. It was from this shared position of concern for the public that we discussed the role of Sci[3] as a Partnership Library. We discovered that both the City of Sunnyvale and the USPTO each provide a certain amount of financial assistance to the library. The City of Sunnyvale spends approximately \$50,000 per year, while USPTO's support amounts to roughly \$90,000 year. Given that the same products and services are now freely available on the Internet combined with the challenge of finding a critical mass of interest for on-site training programs, it was our impression that the City of Sunnyvale and the USPTO agree that the time may be right to transition from a Partnership Library relationship to a streamlined, effective alternative, such as a regular PTDL relationship.

2

It is our understanding that the City Council plans to meet on March 28, 2006 to discuss, among other things, the status of Sci[3] as a Partnership Library. We look forward to the information regarding the Council's decision.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet with you, Mayor Swegles, and Vice Mayor Lee. Please extend them my best regards.

Sincerely,



Ted Parr  
Director, Customer Information Services  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Cc: Eleanor Meltzer